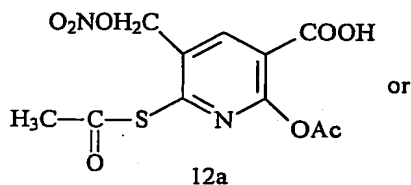
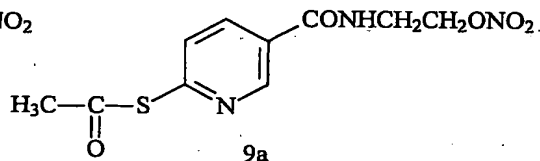
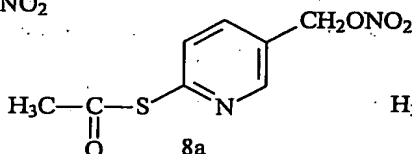
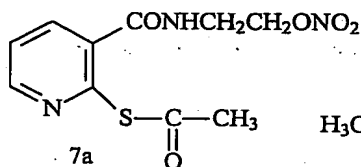
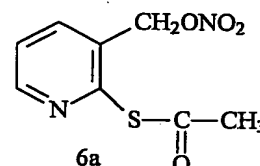
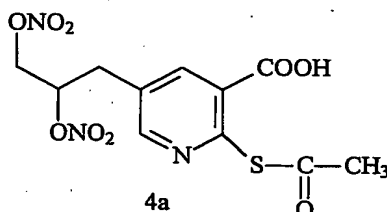
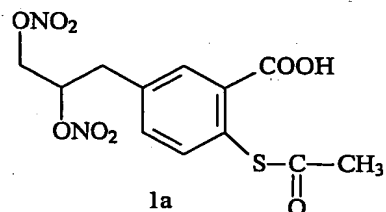


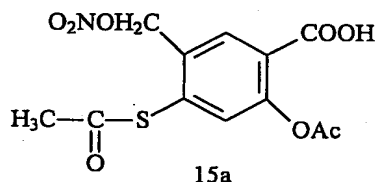
CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A compound containing at least one sulfhydryl group and at least one NO donor group,
 5 wherein said compound contains one or more protected sulfhydryl groups linked to at least one aromatic ring or a heteroaromatic ring with a nitrogen in the ring structure, which ring is substituted by one or more substituents bearing at least one terminal $-\text{ONO}_2$ group.
2. A compound according to claim 1, wherein said protected sulfhydryl group is an
 10 acetylated sulfhydryl group.
3. A compound according to claim 1, wherein said compound is:



or

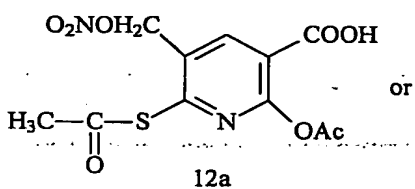
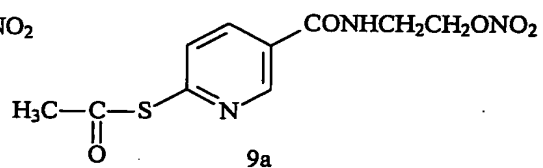
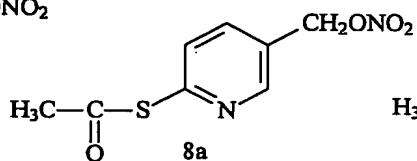
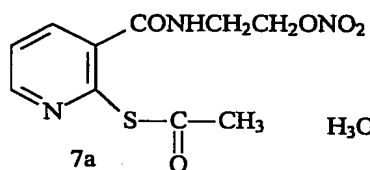
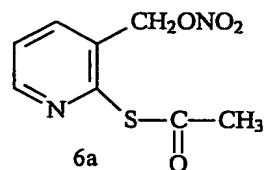
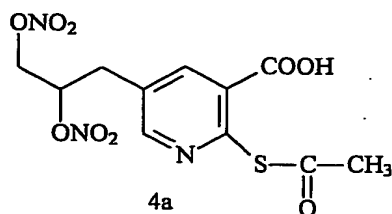
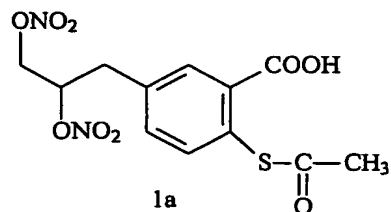


4. A pharmaceutical composition comprising

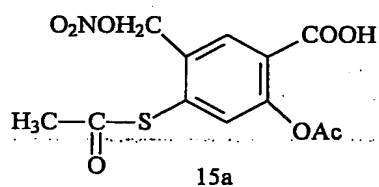
- 5 i) as an active ingredient at least one compound containing at least one sulfhydryl group and at least one NO donor group, wherein said compound contains one or more protected sulfhydryl groups linked to at least one aromatic ring or a heteroaromatic ring with a nitrogen in the ring structure, which ring is substituted by one or more substituents bearing at least one terminal $-\text{ONO}_2$ group; and
- ii) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10 5. A composition according to claim 4, wherein said protected sulfhydryl group is an acetylated sulfhydryl group.

6. A composition according to claim 4 wherein the active ingredient is:



or



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